

What Is Claimed Is:

## 1. A rangefinder apparatus comprising:

AF data generating means for forming an image of light from an object to be subjected to rangefinding onto a pair of line sensors each including a plurality of light-receiving elements, and generating AF data for calculating a correlation value according to signals obtained from the light-receiving elements;

AF data acquiring means for acquiring the AF data from a pair of employed sensor areas used for rangefinding in the pair of line sensors;

correlation value computing means for determining a pair of window areas for selecting the AF data to be used for computing a correlation value within the pair of employed sensor areas, and successively computing correlation values while shifting the pair of window areas;

interpolated correlation extreme value computing means for detecting at least one correlation extreme value from the correlation values computed by the correlation value computing means, and interpolating the correlation values so as to compute an interpolated correlation extreme value for each correlation extreme value;

highest correlation value detecting means for detecting the highest correlation value exhibiting the highest correlation based on the interpolated correlation extreme value(s) computed by the interpolated correlation

extreme value computing means;

shift amount computing means for computing a shift amount of the window areas when the correlation of the window areas becomes highest;

5 rangefinding error judging means for judging the validity of the shift amount computed by the shift amount computing means depending on whether the shift amount is outside of a predetermined range or not; and

10 object distance calculating means for calculating a distance to the object according to the shift amount computed by the shift amount computing means.

2. A camera comprising the rangefinder apparatus according to claim 1.